



## Bikeway Master Plan

January 23, 2017

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### Purpose

Mayor and Council conduct a work session to discuss the Bikeway Master Plan and provide direction to staff.

Staff also recommends that the Mayor and Council adopt a resolution extending the deadline to approve, modify, remand, or disapprove the plan until April 14, 2017, which is a 60 day extension.



## Presentation Outline

- Background
- Timeline
- Vision
- Planning Process
- Objectives and Policies
- Recommendations
- Public Comments
- Implementation
- Discussion



## Background

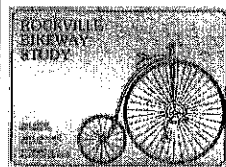
### History of the Bikeway Master Plan

1981 – Rockville Bikeway Study completed

1998 – First Bikeway Master Plan adopted

2004 – Bikeway Master Plan updated

2012 – Technical Assistance Grant from MWCOC to study bikeways, Public Works taking the lead





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## Timeline

- 2012 – Received technical assistance grant
- 2012/2013 – Worked on drafting the plan
- Fall 2013 – Work sessions with RBAC and T&T Commission
- February 2014 – Draft plan
- September 2016 – PC Approval and Recommendation
- November 2016 – Presentation of the draft plan to Mayor and Council
- December 2016 – M&C Public Hearing
- Between November 2016 and January 2017 - Public outreach effort on revised draft plan - Collected and responded to comments from over 19 individuals and organizations
- January 23, 2017 – Mayor and Council D&I Work Session



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## Vision

"Bicycling in Rockville is for all types of trips, for all types of people, and for all parts of the City."

### Benefits of Bicycling

- Quality of Life
- Health
- Environment
- Transportation Costs
- Local Economy



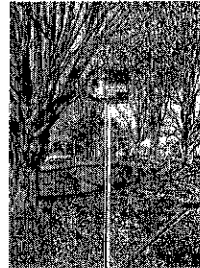


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## Planning Process

### 2004 Plan Summary

- Completed the Carl Henn Memorial Millennium Trail
- Completed the bicycle and pedestrian bridge over I-270 (adjacent to MD 28)
- 20+ miles each of shared use paths and signed shared roadways
- Complete Streets policy



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## Planning Process

### Stakeholders and Public Involvement

- Bikeway Master Plan Advisory Committee
- Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission
- City of Rockville Departments
- External Agencies
- Planning Commission





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## Objectives and Policies

Objective 1: Mobility

Objective 2: Facilities

Objective 3: Environmental

Objective 4: Safety

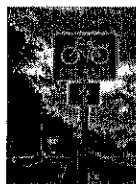
Objective 5: Encouragement



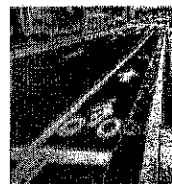
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## Recommendations

### Bicycle Facility Types



Signed Shared Roadways



Bicycle Lanes



Cycletracks



Sharrows (Shared lane + Arrow)



Shared Use Paths

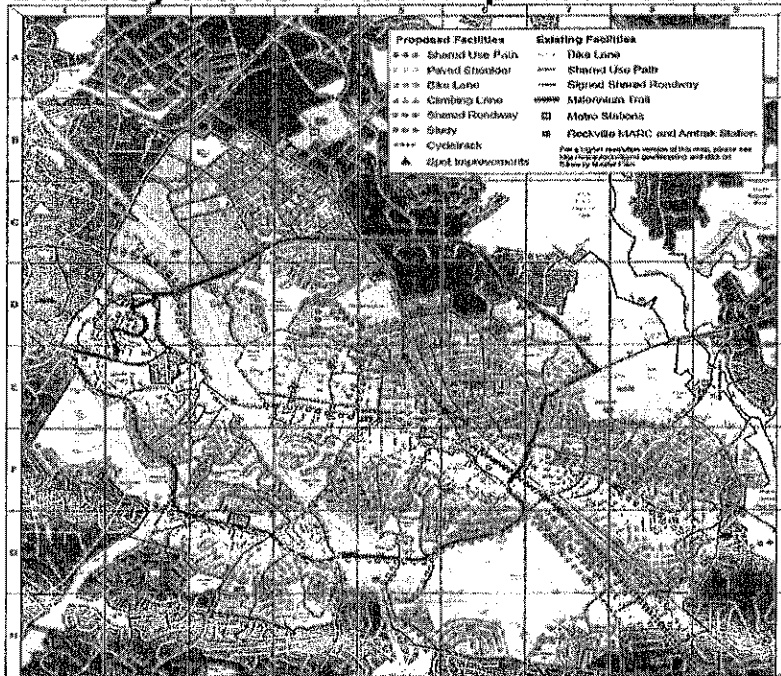


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## Recommendations

	Existing	Recommended New (this plan)	Total
Bike Lanes	3.0	9.9	12.9
Shared-Use Paths	31.3	4.3	35.6
Cycletracks	0.0	5.2	5.2
Shared Roadways	33.5	17.4	50.9
TOTALS	67.8	36.8	104.6

## Bikeway Master Plan Proposed Facilities





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## Recommendations

### Spot Improvements

- Falls Road (I-270 Overpass)
- MD 355 & N. Washington Street
- Edmonston Road bridge over MD 355
- Park Road and MD 355
- Park Road (under CSX tracks overpass)
- Grandin Avenue and Norbeck Road



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## Policy and Practice Recommendations

### Additional Recommendations

- Bicycle parking
- Bicycle laws and regulations
- Wayfinding Signage
- County and State policy
- Signal Timing
- Intersections
- Neighborhood Connectivity
- Bikeshare
- Data Collection tools





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## Outreach

- BMP available online for public review on the City's website 10/26
- Available in libraries and City Hall for public comment
- E-mail listserv was sent to all Civic Associations on November 7
- A notice of the Public Hearing was posted on the City website, on RBAC page, and RockvilleReports.com
- Articles were published in the November and December editions of Rockville Reports.
- Early social media posts/tweets also were posted.
- Public Hearing Notice was published in the Washington Post on November 24 and December 1, 2016.
- News release on November 16, 2016.
- Announced on Rockville 11



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## Public Comments

- Concerns about "shared roadway" designations, especially on Wootton Parkway

The shared roadway designation is being proposed for Wootton Parkway in order to accommodate and provide options for cyclists of various types and abilities





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## Public Comments

- Concerns regarding proposed bicycle lanes on:
  - Martins Ln
  - Mannakee St
  - Maryland Ave (require more prescriptive design)
  - Nelson St
  - N Washington St

The Plan is a high-level policy document and does not propose specific actions or implementation details.

Any project will take careful consideration for safety, travel patterns, and automobile parking.

When specific plans are available for bicycle facilities in neighborhoods, they will be provided to neighborhood for input.



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## Public Comments

- Implementation and Performance Measures
  - Expediting implementation (shrinking timetable to 5 yrs)
  - Expanding scope to all streets

Because the plan is a high-level planning document, establishing concrete timeline, prioritization details (and to that extent, performance measures) for implementation of individual bikeway projects is not practical at this time.

Bicycle facilities will be added or improved as opportunities arise for coordination with other projects such as street resurfacing, road rehabilitation projects and construction of new developments. City staff will regularly revisit the recommendations in this plan to schedule near-term projects.



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### Public Comments

- Rockville Pike Cycle Track
  - Expedite implementation
  - Require feasibility assessment and plan for interim bikeway

Installation of the proposed two-way protected bike lanes on both sides of Rockville Pike will significantly contribute to connectivity and safety of the bikeway network in Rockville. Staff will make every effort to prioritize this project, however implementation will likely need to be coordinated with construction of other major public and private projects along the corridor.



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### Public Comments

- Bicycle Parking Ordinance

Staff conducted a search for similar legislations from other jurisdictions, but could not identify municipal authorities that have enacted such ordinances. Staff is concerned that such an ordinance might constitute unreasonable/unusual burden for business and property owners. Please note that the Traffic and Transportation Division initiated a Bike Rack Grant Program in 2015 to provide bike racks to local businesses that were developed before our Zoning Ordinance required bicycle parking.



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### **Public Comments**

- Restore dedicated bike lanes (eliminated from 2014 draft update)
  - College Parkway
  - Hurley Ave

The dedicated bikeways, removed from staff's initial 2014 draft update of the Bikeway Master Plan, were removed after careful discussion by the Planning Commission. Staff will evaluate restoration of the removed bikeways on College Pkwy and Hurley Ave upon further direction from the Mayor and Council.



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### **Section 5.1 Implementation and Public Involvement**

The PC requested actions to be taken with the following triggers:

- Removal of one or more lanes of traffic.
- Removal of 10% or more of existing on-street parking spaces.
- Widening a roadway to accommodate a new bikeway where any of the following occurs: street trees are removed and not replaced, private property acquisition is required, or sidewalks are narrowed or relocated.



## **Section 5.1 Implementation and Public Involvement (cont'd)**

### **Actions:**

- All residents and businesses with frontage along the route are notified via direct mailing
- Local citizen association reps notified and invited to any meetings.
- Public meeting held (invitation by direct mailing, and published in Rockville Reports and/or the City's website)
- Public hearing in front of the Mayor and Council
- M&C provides direction to staff on how to proceed with the project
- Everyone will be notified on final decision for project



### **Considerations:**

- City Code Sec. 23-3. – "Traffic Control Devices" gives the City Manager the authority to add or eliminate parking spaces.
- City Road Code Sec. 21-20. – "Waivers" states that the City Manager may recommends to the Council that any requirements of sidewalks and rights-of-way be waived
- City staff conducts public meetings for many projects (i.e., sidewalk projects) without involving the M&C or conducting a public hearing.
- Public hearings could be conducted on a case by case basis, if needed.



## Mayor and Council Process

- M&C has 90 days from the day the date of transmittal (2/13/2017), plus 60-day extension - 150 days (4/14/2017)
- Action:
  - Adopt the Planning Commission's plan;
  - Amend the plan and adopt the amended plan;
  - Remand the plan to the PC for further work; or
  - Reject the plan.
- If M&C does not act, PC's plan becomes the City's adopted plan.

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## Next Steps

Following tonight's discussion, the Mayor and Council will direct staff to either:

- Schedule another work session to discuss the BMP, or
- Come back with a revised plan ready for adoption before April 14, 2017.